

The CIRF

The Cognitive Interviewing Reporting Framework

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Introduction

- What is cognitive interviewing...?
- Do we actually know what actions lie behind the term “cognitive interviewing”?
- We know what we do, but what do other researchers do?
- Example: literature review on mixed mode research. Many article unusable due to lack of specific info.

→ Now we have a solution: the CIRF

Overview

- What is the CIRF?
- Our paper; The pre-test in a nutshell.
- Comparing the CIRF to the original report.
- Strengths and limitations of CIRF.
- Questions?

The CIRF

In special issue of *Methodology European Journal of research Methods for the Behavioural and Social Sciences*:

1. Boeije, H., and Willis, G. (2013). The Cognitive Interviewing Reporting Framework (CIRF): towards the harmonization of cognitive interviewing reports.
2. Bode, C. & Jansen, H. (2013). Examining the Personal Experience of Aging Scale with the Three Step Test Interview.
3. Vis-Visschers, R. & Meertens, V. (2013). Using the CIRF to report on a Dutch pretest of a European Health Survey Questionnaire.
4. Padilla, J.L., Benitez, I., & Castillo, M. (2013). Obtaining validity evidence by cognitive interviewing to interpret psychometric results.
5. Willis, G., & Boeije, H. (2013). Reflections on the CIRF: Efficacy, expectations, and promise for the future.

Items of the CIRF:

1. Research objectives

Define the research objectives

What is the theoretical perspective for the cognitive interviewing study?

2. Research design

Describe the features of the overall research design

3. Ethics

Present evidence of thoughtfulness about research contexts and participants

4. Participant selection

Describe the participant selection methods used

5. Data collection

Provide information about the data collection methods

5. Data analysis

Describe methods of data-analysis in this research project

7. Findings

Present findings in a systematic and clear way either per item, meaningful part of the questionnaire or the entire questionnaire

8. Conclusions, implications, and discussion

Address the realization of the objectives

9. Strengths and limitations of the study

Discuss strengths and limitations of the design and employment of the study and how these can have affected the findings

10. Report format

Use a structured and accepted format for organizing the report

Our article

- EHIS, Eurostat questionnaire, CAPI survey.
- A diverse group of 30 test respondents as to gender, age, education, employment status and health problems.
- Testing methods a) reviews, b) cognitive interviewing, c) behaviour observation.

Comparing CIRF Categories with elements of the original report

	CIRF Categories	Chapter	Original StatNeth Report
1	Research Objectives	1	Introduction
2	Research Design	1 & 2.2	Introduction & Methods, subsection Test procedure
3	Ethics	-	Not included
4	Participant Selection	2.1	Methods, subsection Test respondents
5	Data collection	2.2	Methods, subsection Test procedure
6	Data analysis	3	Results
7	Findings and recommendations	3	Results
8	Conclusion, implications and discussion	4	Conclusions and recommendations
9	Strengths and limitations	-	Not included
10	Report format		Appendices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •(test) questionnaire •test protocol •examples of recruitment letter, consent form etc.
-	Not included		Methods, subsection Test questionnaire

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Strengths and limitations of the CIRF

Our conclusion, after writing the CIRF paper:

The CIRF helped in defining the method “*cognitive interviewing*”.

→ what StatNeth calls a “*cognitive interview pretest*” is actually a “*pretest combining several testing methods including cognitive interviewing*”.

The CIRF is a useful checklist to achieve completeness in internal Q-lab reports on pretests with one or more testing methods.

→ a ‘minimal standard’: e.g. a report on how a pretest was conducted should at least contain a description of the CIRF items.

The CIRF-format forced us to reflect more on the scientific background of our work.

→ We found Q-lab standards and testing methods and realised that our work has a solid scientific foundation. [\(see also next presentation\)](#)

Conclusion

In an international context the CIRF may enhance comparability, completeness and uniformity of research designs, terminology and reporting of pretest research at NSI's.

Questions?